

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. 2000-0351

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The invention of claim 3~~ A method of operating a content distribution network switch in a content distribution network comprising the steps of:
receiving a packet from a client associated with a secure communication connection;

extracting information from the packet to identify a cache server in the content distribution network that maintains state information on the secure communication connection, wherein the information extracted from the packet comprises a session identifier used to compute a label identifying the cache server;

directing the packet towards the identified cache server;

wherein the label identifying the cache server is computed from the session identifier by a function $f(\text{SID})$ where SID is the session identifier; and

wherein the function $f(\text{SID}) = \text{SID} \text{ MOD } n + 1$ where n is the number of cache servers that can store the state information on the secure communication connection.

5. (Original) The invention of claim 4 wherein the secure communication connection is a Secure Sockets Layer connection.

Claims 6-12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently amended) ~~The invention of claim 12~~ A method of operating a cache server in a content distribution network comprising the steps of:
selecting a session identifier that may be utilized by a content distribution network switch to direct packets associated with a secure communication connection to the cache server;
negotiating a secure communication connection with a client;

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maintaining state information for said secure communication connection by said cache server;

wherein the session identifier is used to compute a label identifying the cache server using a function $f(SID)$ where SID is the session identifier; and

wherein the function $f(SID) = SID \text{ MOD } n + 1$ where n is the number of cache servers that can store the state information on the secure communication connection.

14. (Original) The invention of claim 13 wherein the secure communication connection is a Secure Sockets Layer connection.

Claims 15-16 (Canceled).